

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II
26 FEDERAL PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10278

April 22, 1993

Mr. Tom Osberg
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Environmental Photographic Interpretation Center
Vint Hill Farms Station
Building 166, Bicher Road
Warrenton, Virginia 22186-5129

Dear Tom:

Enclosed please find a request for analysis of historical photography for the Ventron Velsicol site in Wood-Ridge, NJ.

In view of your current situation under Contract 68-03-3532 with Bionetics Corp., as outlined in your letter of April 2, 1993 to me, I am asking the following questions:

1. What is the earliest/latest delivery date that you can foresee on this request?
2. Will you be able to start before October 1, 1993 on making an archive search of existing imagery for the 1929-1975 period and the specific years 1940, 1950, 1960, 1965, 1970 and 1975?
3. If you are not able to start on this, can you expedite my request for the EPIC statement of work and performance requirements as faxed to you on April 15, 1993, to enable us to locate an alternate source of aerial photo analysis?

Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

Peter D. Moss

Peter D. Moss, P.E.
EPIC Coordinator
Region II Superfund

cc: Vince Pitruzzello
Dennis Santella
Shaheer Alvi
Amy Brochu
Rich Puvogel

Request Date: 4/20/93

Aerial Photography Services Request Form

I. SITE DATA

Site Name: VENTRON VELSIOL

Region: II

Program: (circle) Superfund RCRA RCRA Enf.

Other _____

If Superfund: Site/Spill ID# NSD980529879

Purpose (circle): Remedial Removal Enf. Other _____

Geographic Coordinates: 74°03'21.7" Long. 40°50'20.4" Lat. _____

State: NJ. County: BERGEN Municipality: WOOD-RIDGE/CARLSTADT

USGS Quad Name (IMPORTANT: Attach photocopy of map showing site boundaries and/or study area): WEEHAWKEN

Regional Project Manager RICH PUVOGEL Phone# 212 264 9836 Comm. _____

Brief discussion of site history, specific problems at site, what you hope to accomplish through this request. Elaborate on known or suspected aspects of site operation (e.g. barrels believed dumped between 1967 and 1972 adjacent to north lagoon). Please attach background information about the site such as site descriptions, action memos, etc.

SEE ATTACHMENT

II. STANDARD REQUEST OPTIONS- Check and complete the appropriate section for the type of service you are requesting.

- ****Average _____
turnaround
time =
6 wks.****
1. CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHY ONLY (new overflight)
 - a. Scale: _____ (e.g. 1:24,000)
 - b. Special conditions (e.g. do not fly if snow cover, leaves on, etc.) _____
 - c. Photo size: 9" x 9" _____ 20" x 20" _____ Other _____
 - d. Are stereo pairs needed? _____ Y _____ N
 - e. Number of copies: _____
 - f. Desired delivery date: _____

2. HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHY ONLY

***Average
turnaround
time =
6-10 wks.***

a. Study period (e.g. 1936-1955): _____
b. Specific years desired: _____
c. Photo size: 9" x 9" _____ 20" x 20" _____ Other _____
d. Number of copies: _____
e. Desired delivery date: _____

3. ANALYSIS OF CURRENT (single coverage) PHOTOGRAPHY

***Average
turnaround
time=
8 wks.****

a. Scale: _____ (e.g. 1:24,000)
b. Special conditions (e.g. do not fly if snow cover, leaves on, etc.) _____
c. Photo size: 9" x 9" _____ 20" x 20" _____ Other _____
d. Number of copies: _____
e. Desired delivery date: _____

✓ 4. ANALYSIS OF HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHY (standard site analysis package - see attachment)

***Average
turnaround
time = 12-
24 wks.

a. Study period (e.g. 1936-1955): 1929 - 1975
b. Specific years of interest: 1929, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975
c. Are copies of historical photos (before analysis) needed? Y _____ N ☒
If yes, photo size: 9" x 9" _____ 20" x 20" _____ Other _____
d. Is an interim report (unbound format, handwritten photo overlays with typed body of report) needed? Y _____ N ☒
e. Number of copies of final bound report: 3
f. Desired delivery date: 9/1/93

5. SURVEYING AND MAPPING- Complete and Attach Mapping Request Form

III. SPECIAL REQUEST OPTIONS: The following remote sensing services are also available for sites with conditions that warrant their use. Check off items of interest and contact your remote sensing coordinator for more information.

- _____ a. Land use analysis (within specified distance from site)
_____ b. Fracture trace analysis
_____ c. Wetland mapping/assessment
_____ d. Multi-spectral scanner overflights
_____ e. Thermal infrared scanner overflights
_____ f. Mensuration (measurments) of features (e.g. barrel/drum count, terrain transects, building dimensions, lagoon dimensions, etc.)

VENTRON/VELSICOL SITE HISTORY

In 1929, a mercury manufacturing plant was constructed by F.W. Berk and Company (Berk) on 7 acres in the northwest portion of the 40 acre tract of land which now comprises Ventron/Velsicol Superfund site (see attached maps). Most of the tract on which the plant was located was marshland, bounded on the east by Berrys Creek.

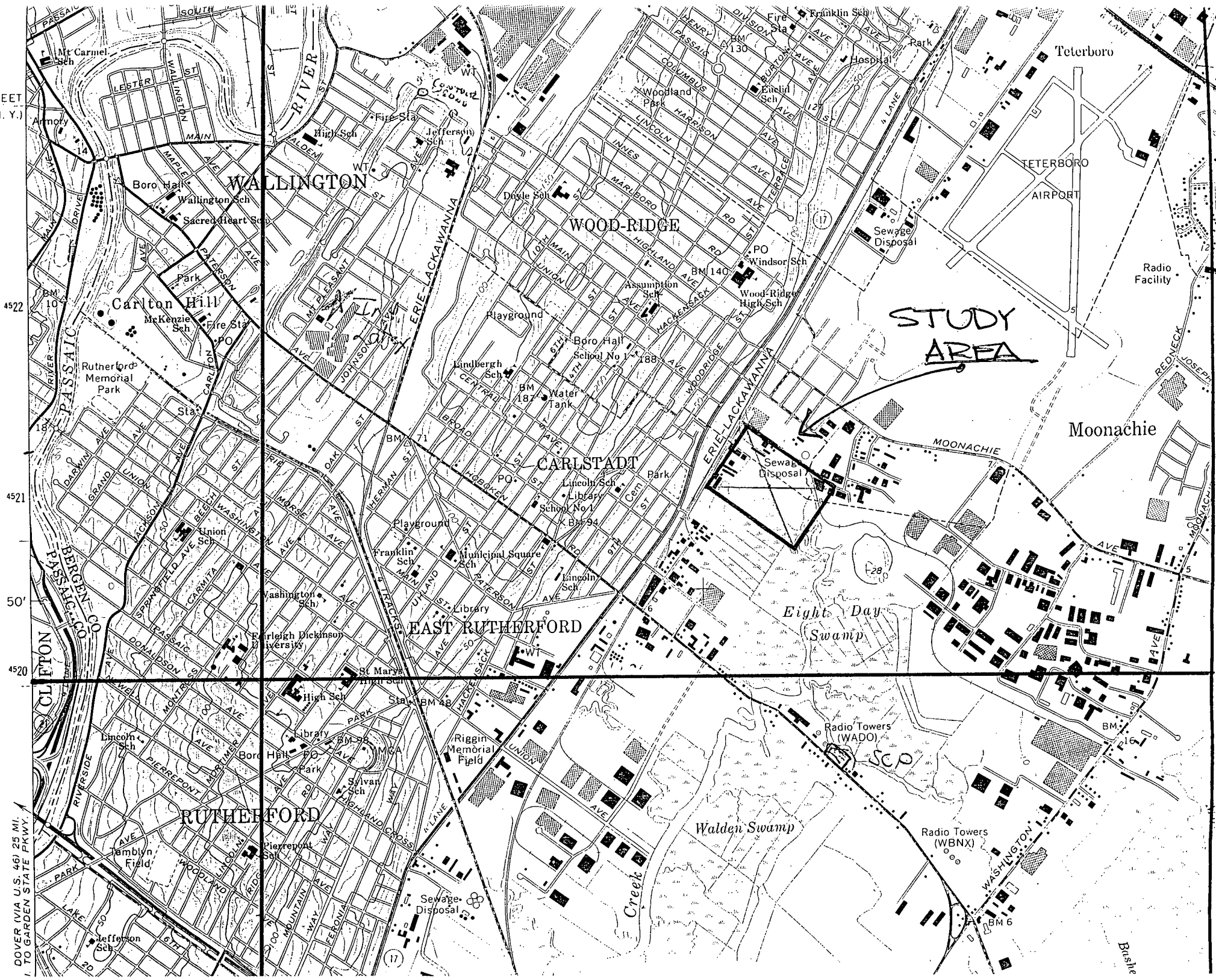
From 1929 through 1960 the main operations at the plant consisted of the manufacture of fungicides, insecticides, red oxide of mercury (ROM), yellow oxide of mercury (YOM), phenyl mercuric acetate (PMA), and other organic and inorganic mercury compounds. The plant also had a distilling operation in which contaminated mercury was purified and mercury was recovered from both in-plant waste, such as "pit sludge", and from customers' waste (amalgams, batteries, thermometers, etc.).

In 1960, the plant came under the ownership of Wood-Ridge Chemical Corporation (WRCC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Velsicol Chemical Corporation who continued the same operations. From the early 1960's to 1968, a portion of the tract, approximately 19 acres between Berrys Creek and the 7 acre mercury plant site, was utilized for disposal of wastes that include those from the recovery operation. The area was also operated for at least 5 years as a landfill for municipal-type wastes from sources that included the Borough of Wood-Ridge. For an unknown period of time that commenced in 1962, a nearby plant which manufactured sulfonated naphthalene formaldehyde condensates was granted permission to dispose of a calcium sulfate sludge on the site.

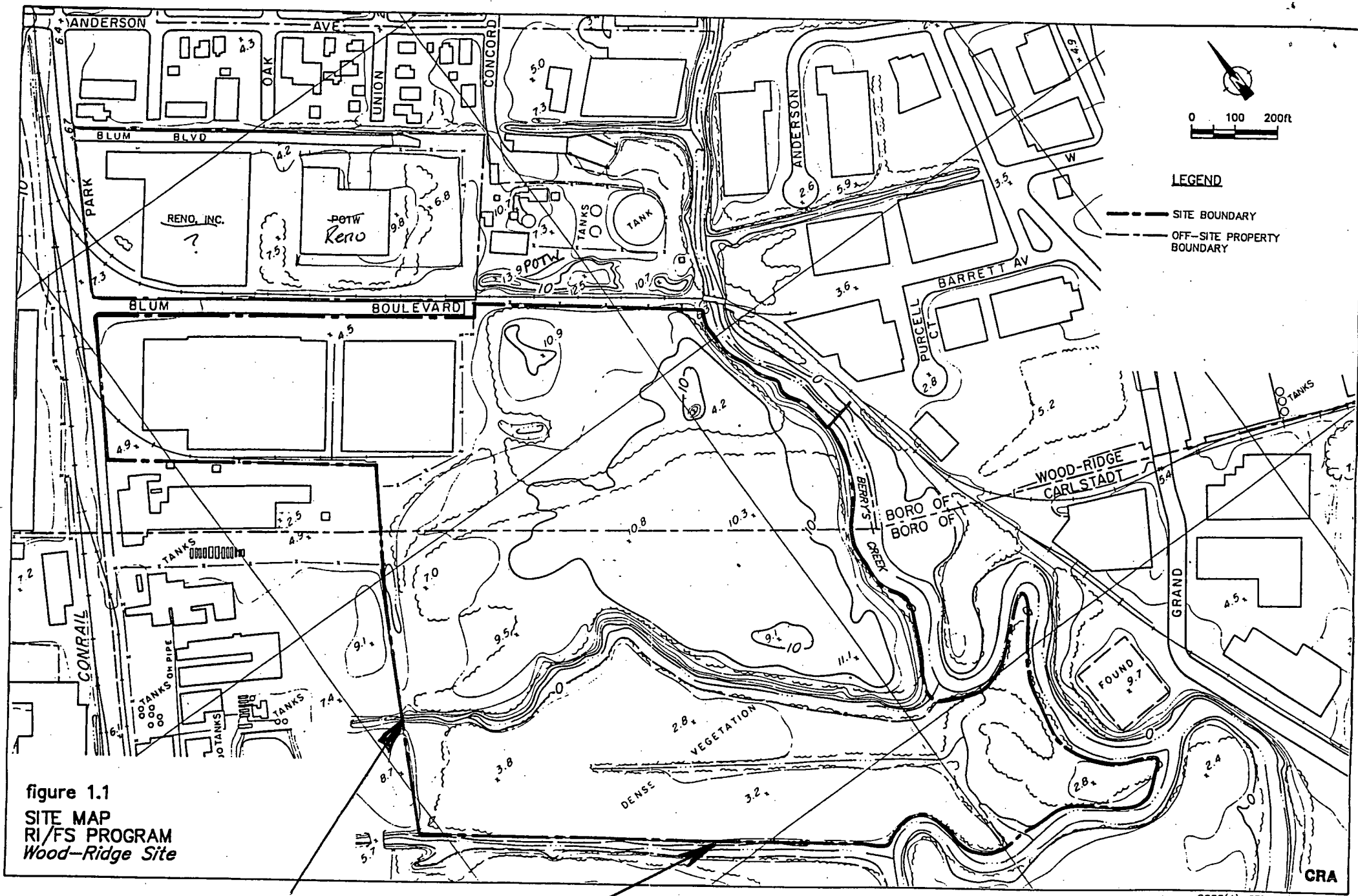
In 1970, sampling of industrial wastewater for mercury was conducted. The results indicated that, at that time, the WRCC/Ventron plant was discharging from two to four pounds of mercury a day into Berry's Creek. In addition, the mercury concentration in sediment samples taken in the vicinity of the industrial wastewater discharge into Berry's Creek indicated high levels of mercury contamination in the Creek.

In 1974 the mercury manufacturing plant was razed and construction of two buildings on the former plant site began in 1975. These two buildings are presently used for a food distribution warehouse and an office building.

30 000 FEET
(N. Y.)



DOVER (VIA U.S. 46) 25 MI.
TO GARDEN STATE PKWY.



SITE BOUNDARY

figure 1.1
SITE MAP
RI/FS PROGRAM
Wood-Ridge Site